

REMARKS

Claims 40-42, 45-49, 52, and 53 are pending in the present application. Claims 36-62 were examined and claims 36-39 and 54-62 were withdrawn. Claims 36-39, 43, 44, 50, 51, and 54-62 have been cancelled by amendment.

In the office action mailed September 14, 2006, the Examiner objected to the title and rejected claims 40-43 and 47-50 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,486,065 to Vyvoda et al. Claims 44-46 and 51-53 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

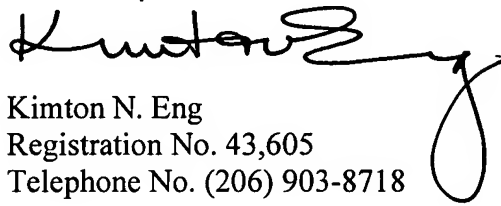
Applicant has cancelled non-elected claims 36-39 and 54-62 without prejudice to the filing of any divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part application.

Claims 40 and 47 have been amended to include the limitations of allowable claims 44 and 51, respectively, and are consequently in condition for allowance. Claims 41 and 42, which depend from claim 40, and claims 48 and 49, which depend from claim 47, are similarly in condition for allowance based on their dependency from a respective allowable base claim. The amendments made to claims 40 and 47 have been made to expedite the allowance of allowable subject matter. The amendments, however, should not be interpreted as reflecting Applicant's belief that the subject matter of the unamended claims is unpatentable, or that the Applicant has forfeited the subject matter of the unamended claims. Moreover, Applicant has not addressed the merits of the Examiner's rejection of the claims, or whether the Examiner's characterizations of the cited references are accurate. Therefore, the presumption that Applicant has tacitly acknowledged the merit of the rejections or that the references cited by the Examiner are relevant to the patentability of the present invention should not be made.

All of the claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance.
Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

Postcard

Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)

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